

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE  
February 14, 2011  
9:02 a.m.

9:02:02 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Stedman called the Senate Finance Committee meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair  
Senator Bert Stedman, Co-Chair  
Senator Johnny Ellis  
Senator Dennis Egan  
Senator Donny Olson  
Senator Joe Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Lesil McGuire, Vice-Chair

ALSO PRESENT

Senator Bettye Davis; Thomas Obermeyer, Staff for Senator Davis

PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

None

SUMMARY

SB 1 BD OF ED./EARLY DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT

SB 1 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

#sb1

SENATE BILL NO. 1

"An Act requiring the state Board of Education and Early Development to provide an annual report to the legislature."

9:02:54 AM

AT EASE

9:05:28 AM

RECONVENED

SENATOR BETTYE DAVIS stated that SB 1 was a bill that required that Board of Education to present a yearly report to the legislature. She remarked that the annual presentations from the University had been effective, and she felt that reports for K-12 would also be effective.

9:06:34 AM

Co-Chair Stedman stated that the meeting was the first hearing of the bill. He stated that there was a zero fiscal note from the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED).

9:07:29 AM

Senator Olson queried the administration's position on the bill. Senator Davis stated that the administration did not have an official position on the bill.

Senator Olson wondered what specifically would be covered in the bill. Senator Davis replied that specifics were outlined in the bill.

9:08:52 AM

THOMAS OBERMEYER, STAFF FOR SENATOR DAVIS, presented the Sponsor Statement for SB 1 (copy on file). He stated that "SB 1 requires that the Alaska State Board of Education shall prepare and present to the legislature not later than the 30th day of each regular session an annual report that describes the efforts of the Board to develop, maintain, and continuously improve a comprehensive quality public education system as provided for under the bylaws of the Board. The report to the legislature must include a summary of the resolves and rationales provided in support of policy decisions; program and curriculum changes made, discussed, or recommended in meetings; and additional information relevant to efforts made to improve and maintain the public education system. The bill is intended to create a greater dialogue among Alaska legislators,

Department of Education and Early Development (DEED), and the Board of Education which meets at least quarterly. Since Alaska legislators appropriate over \$1 billion per year for state public education which is a significant portion of the state budget, they must be at the center of the state's efforts to identify strengths and weaknesses of the current system, help determine a public agenda, set clear goals for K-12 and higher education, and hold institutions accountable for performance. The only way to achieve this is through cooperation and communication with the Board and the Department. Legislators take great pride and tremendous amounts of time and effort every session in trying to provide the best possible education, scholarships, and funding for Alaska students. The annual report required by this bill will assist both DEED and legislators early in each session in assessing new programs, curriculum changes, goals and priorities which may require more information or administrative and legislative action during session."

[9:12:39 AM](#)

SB 1 was HEARD and HELD in committee for further consideration.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 AM.